expreſſive name I could think of, being more proper than that of *flowers*; as the parts which conſtitute the flowers of a fern are much too minute for the inſpection of the naked eye.

In plate 1ſt, d, e, f, I have given a borrowed figure of a ſingle globe, or ſeparate ſeed-veſſel. Theſe are placed in great numbers on the under ſide of the lobes, and every aſſemblage of them covered with a thin tranſparent film, at firſt of a pale whitiſh colour, and as it advances in growth of a browniſh hue; before the ſeeds are ripe it burſts open, and diſcovers the little globes, which are afterwards greatly encreaſed in magnitude, much extending laterally and enlarging the ſpace occupied by the aſſemblage while wrapped up in its primary cover. The globes, or ſeparate ſeed-veſſels, are of a figure truly ſpherical, and are attached to the ſurface of the leaf by a ſhort footſtalk, g. They are ſurrounded with an articulate chain, or elaſtic ring, e, d, which, when the ſeeds are ripe, breaks at h, tears open the ſhell i in a vertical direction, diſcharges the ſeeds, and, as the chain further contracts itſelf, throws open the two valves f, in an horizontal direction, by which the ſpace of the aſſemblage is again conſiderably enlarged, and hence it is that ſome of the polipodia, and many of the aſplenia, become covered with ſeed-veſſels in the laſt ſtages of their growth, and thereby become acroſticha according to the preſent mode of arrangement.

It